

a reputation as a consensus builder on many local issues.

Tom is best remembered for his humanitarian efforts and his enthusiasm as a tireless advocate for San Diego. His carefree nature and long white hair made him stand out in a crowd. Although he is gone now, Tom left an inspiring legacy for entrepreneurs, civic leaders, and youth in our community.

I would like to express my deepest sympathy to Tom Fat's family and honor his life and contributions to the San Diego community. He was admired by so many people for so many reasons, and the impact he had on San Diego will stay alive in the many positive changes he helped to achieve and the memories of him which we will never forget. He will be greatly missed.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to honor such a remarkable individual.

CONGRATULATING SWEDESBURG
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY ON
THEIR 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company, located in Upper Merion, Pennsylvania on their 65th anniversary.

Established in 1942 as a civilian defense in the face of World War II, the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company has become an essential and respected service institution in my district, providing unrivaled emergency response and civic services. Its first engine, a Hale-Ford 500 GPM pumper was purchased for just \$5,000. Today a comparable truck would cost around \$400,000.

Over the course of the past 65 years we have seen a distinct evolution in the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company, but one thing has remained constant—the Company's volunteers have been steadfast in their service and dedication to the community.

As we look back on the past 65 years, there are some important dates to note:

May 11, 1942: Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company is incorporated by Montgomery County. Its first meetings are in Michael Brodowski's Tavern and Stanley Knasiak's barbershop.

1946: Swedesburg's Ladies Auxiliary is established by company president, Bernard S. Gutkowski, Sr.

1951: Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company's original fire house is built on Church Road thanks to generous contributions from James Lees & Sons, among many others.

1953: The development of the PA Turnpike Delaware River Extension charges right through Swedesburg's back yard and the firehouse, along with 32 homes, are razed for its development.

1954: Volunteers and the community rally to construct the present-day firehouse on Jefferson Street.

1960s: The Junior Fireman's Corps is established for volunteers between the ages of 17 and 21.

1975: The Company establishes a Vehicle Rescue Unit with its first "Jaws of Life".

1983: Swedesburg is among the first companies in Pennsylvania to be certified in vehicle rescue.

1986: Swedesburg establishes its water rescue team with the purchase of its first boat and hours of training for 30 personnel.

1991: An addition to the existing firehouse is completed, with a larger engine room and improved radio room, a new meeting room and offices.

One of the greatest services in my district comes from first responders who are on the frontlines protecting us. They are required to balance the demands of their service with their families and full-time careers. I ask that everyone please join me in congratulating the Swedesburg Volunteer Fire Company and all of the men and women that have helped serve their community over the past 65 years.

HONORING MINNESOTA'S EMERGENCY SERVICES WORKERS—EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE, EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the emergency service workers of Minnesota. This week is National Emergency Services Week and I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary dedication and service of Minnesota's Emergency Medical Dispatchers, First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, Emergency Department Nurses and Physicians and introduce this brief proclamation.

Whereas, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

Whereas, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

Whereas, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

Whereas, the emergency medical services system consists of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators and others; and

Whereas, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; and

Now, therefore, I—KEITH ELLISON—Congressman for the Fifth District of Minnesota hereby proclaim the week of May 20–26, 2007, as National Emergency Services Week.

IN HONOR OF HARRY AND
BARBARA KRAMER

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor 2 true western Pennsylvania heroes,

Mr. Harry Kramer and his wife, Barbara. "Uncle Harry," as he is known to generations of campers, was Executive Director of YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee in Fombell, Beaver County for 37 years, before retiring this spring. On June 2, hundreds of campers, parents, counselors, and others touched by Harry's kindness and selflessness will return to Camp Kon-O-Kwee to honor Uncle Harry and his wife, Aunt Barbara, and to dedicate the brand new dining hall as "Kramer Hall."

Harry and Barbara have devoted their lives to helping others. Together they turned Camp Kon-O-Kwee from a ramshackle boys camp slated for closure into the country's premier camp for special needs children and adults. Kon-O-Kwee also serves as a place for at-risk youth retreats, senior citizen camping trips, school field trips, and parent-child weekend campouts. Over 17,000 campers come to Kon-O-Kwee each year, and Uncle Harry and Aunt Barbara's warm smiles and big hearts have made an indelible imprint on each and every one.

Madam Speaker, these 2 western Pennsylvanians are shining examples of what the rest of us should strive to be. They have worked tirelessly for almost 40 years to create a magical place that Uncle Harry has called "heaven on earth." And for the thousands who have passed through Camp Kon-O-Kwee—be it for a day, a weekend, or a week—it has been exactly that.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, I extend to them my deepest thanks for their years of service to western Pennsylvania and I wish them the very best in their well-earned retirement.

CONGRATULATING CHANGING
HANDS BOOKSTORE PUBLISHER'S
WEEKLY BOOKSELLER OF THE
YEAR 2007

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the awarding of the Publisher's Weekly Bookseller of the Year for 2007 to my favorite bookstore, Changing Hands, in my hometown of Tempe, Arizona.

Changing Hands bookstore is a model for independent businesses. It has not only survived, but thrived in the age of "chain stores". Changing Hands regularly hosts teens' and kids' programs, features book signings by local and national authors, and is a meeting place for book groups. President Jimmy Carter, former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, as well as Senator HILLARY CLINTON are just a few of the notable authors who have been featured at events at this Tempe institution.

Changing Hands has been a Tempe destination since it first opened its doors in 1974. It has attracted a loyal following that draws an eclectic group of individuals whose interests range from New Age to older age to teen age.

The business thrives because owners Gail Shanks, Bill Sommer, and Suzie Brazil are committed to innovation, employee participation and customer service. Without them, the community would have an intellectual void.

If one were to choose a place in Tempe to represent what the community should value,

that place would be Changing Hands bookstore.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2007 U.S.
PHYSICS OLYMPIAD TEAM

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of the members of the 2007 United States Physics Olympiad Team.

It is very challenging to earn a spot on this prestigious team. After taking a preliminary exam, 200 high school students qualified to take the second and final screening exam for the U.S. Physics Team. The 24 survivors of that group represent the top physics students in the U.S., and they are now at a ten-day training camp of intense study, examination and problem solving hosted by the University of Maryland. Five of these exceptional students will advance and represent the United States in a tremendous international competition in July at the International Physics Olympiad in Isfahan, Iran.

The 24 members of the 2007 team include: Erik Anson, Sophie Cai, Tucker Chan, Joseph Chu, Benjamin Connell, Kenan Diab, Nicholas Dou, YingYu Gao, Kenneth Hu, Rui Hu, Sunny Kam, Jenny Kwan, Jason LaRue, Allen Lin, Andy Lucas, Sarah Marzen, Kynan Rilee, Aleksandra Stankiewicz, Philip Streich, Arvind Thiagarajan, Philip Tynan, Haofei Wei, James Yang, and Danny Zhu.

I commend the American Institute of Physics and the American Association of Physics Teachers for organizing this annual event and fostering a passion for science in these students. I know that for every finalist represented here, there are numerous colleagues and parents who have provided tireless support to help them reach this point. As a former physics professor, I also am well-aware that this level of achievement is usually backed by a host of exceptional teachers dedicated to their profession and to educating individual students. I hope each of the Olympiad finalists will make a point of thanking and recognizing the teachers that have guided them over the years.

Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) practitioners are very important to our national competitiveness. I imagine that many of these students will become leaders in the science and engineering community in the future. While they represent the pinnacle of physics achievement in high school, I believe Congress must work to improve the opportunities in STEM education for all students, even those who may not choose scientifically-based careers. Making sure our teachers are well-equipped to teach science and math is very important in fostering the interest of future generations in these subjects because every job will soon require a basic understanding of math and science.

I am very pleased that these students take time away from their purely scientific endeavors to meet with their legislators in Washington. I believe it is very important for scientists to engage with politicians regarding the impact that science and technology can have on issues such as national security, climate

change, and healthcare. Furthermore, I hope some of these students will consider running for public office and add their expertise to the policy world. I am very thankful for these future leaders and ask that you please join me in congratulating them on their wonderful achievements. We wish the top 5 the best of success as they represent the United States in Iran.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF FERS
REDEPOSIT ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, there is no debate over whether the Federal Government is facing a workforce shortage crisis—it is. In 10 years, 90 percent of our nation's civil service federal executives will be over the age of 50 and many will be nearing retirement. This coming brain drain threatens the stability and functioning of essential government functions. At a time when the American people are demanding efficient and effective government—from the implementation of public programs to the oversight of the Iraq war—we are about to lose many of our dedicated and most knowledgeable professionals.

I am writing to ask for your support for a bill I will re-introduce that takes a step in the right direction. The FERS Redeposit Act would allow individuals who left the Federal Government, and received a refund of their Federal Employees Retirement System, FERS, contributions, to re-enter government service without losing their accrued annuity. Instead of forfeiting credit earned during their prior service, returning employees would be able to redeposit their cashed out annuity upon re-employment. This benefit is already available to federal employees who are registered under the older Civil Service Retirement System, CSRS.

I have received many letters of former federal employees who work for the private sector, but would like to return to civil service. Many of these well-qualified men and women are choosing to remain in the private workforce because the costs to reentering the federal workforce are too high. In an economy where people will change jobs many times over the course of their careers, a reinvestment option under FERS will make government service more competitive, incorporating the flexibility and mobility that are so common in the private sector businesses of the new economy.

As more and more FERS employees leave the Federal Government and later wish to re-enter federal service, a redeposit option would provide the incentive needed to bring these individuals back to government service.

Now is the time to act before the workforce shortage hits our civil service the hardest. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort to make federal service more attractive by co-sponsoring this important legislation.

HONORING CHRIS CLARK'S 41-YEAR
CAREER AT WTVF-CHANNEL 5

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chris Clark on his retirement from WTVF-Channel 5 after 41 years of service.

During a segment before his retirement on Wednesday, May 23, after the 6 p.m. newscast, Chris seemed surprised at the outpouring of well wishes he received via e-mail from hundreds of viewers who considered him as part of their family after all the years he had been on air. Indeed, it's rare for a person in broadcast to stay in one place for 41 years.

Chris will be remembered for encouraging Channel 5 to switch from recorded interviews to live on-site reports, making the station only the second in the Nation to use the technology at that time. But he may be more famous for giving Oprah Winfrey her first television job in 1974.

Chris, I wish you well as you head into retirement. I understand you are a self-described movie nut and that you will soon take a well-deserved vacation in Florida with your family. I hope you have many more opportunities to travel and watch movies in your unscripted life.

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATION'S
TRAUMA SYSTEMS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight the important role of our Nation's trauma systems. On March 27, 2007, this Chamber passed legislation I sponsored to reauthorize the Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act. This important legislation was signed into law on May 3, 2007. However, while the bill awaited the President's signature, the Nation observed the critical importance of trauma systems and the role they played in ensuring that New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine received the quick and efficient health care he needed to survive injuries he sustained during an April 12 traffic accident.

I would request that this New York Times article entitled "In Corzine's Fast Recovery, Doctors Cite Timing, Grit and Luck" be inserted in the RECORD. This article outlines the important role that the Camden, New Jersey area's trauma system—and particularly its Level I Trauma Center, Cooper University Hospital—played in Governor Corzine's treatment.

[From The New York Times, May 13, 2007]

IN CORZINE'S FAST RECOVERY, DOCTORS CITE
TIMING, GRIT AND LUCK

(By Lawrence K. Altman)

An article on Sunday about the extensive medical care that Gov. Jon S. Corzine of New Jersey received at Cooper University Hospital in Camden after a traffic accident on April 12 misstated the date of Mr. Corzine's release in some copies. It was April 30, not May 1.